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IAP20 Rec'd 09 JAN 09 09 JAN 2006

PATENT  
2503-1193

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Valentino MERCATI

Conf.

Application No. NEW NATIONAL PHASE

Group

Filed January 9, 2006

Examiner

PROCESS FOR OBTAINING TOBACCO LEAVES WITH A STANDARDIZED NICOTINE  
CONTENT AND/OR IMPROVED COMBUSTIBILITY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 9, 2006

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are  
respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified  
application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this  
paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing  
of claims which begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

An Appendix is attached following the signature page of  
this paper.